

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2677

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 2931

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SU, UK

SUBJECT: GOS DEMARCHE TO BRITISH RE SADDIQ AL-MAHDI

REF: KHARTOUM 2876

1. BRITISH AMBASSADOR PHILLIPS TELLS ME HE WAS CALLED TO FONOFF OCT 5 BY ACTING FONMIN FRANCIS DENG TO RECEIVE SUDANESE ORAL COMPLAINT RE CONTINUED PRESENCE IN UK OF SADDIQ AL-MAHDI, RECENTLY CONDEMNED TO DEATH HERE IN ABSENTIA (REFTEL. DENG TOLD PHILLIPS GOS/UK RELATIONS EXCELLENT EXCEPT FOR THIS ONE ISSUE WHICH COULD CAUSE SERIOUS PROBLEM UNLESS SOON RESOLVED. DENG THEREFORE HOPED SADDIQ COULD BE DEPORTED PROMPTLY. PHILLIPS RESPONDED SADDIQ'S ONE-YEAR RESIDENCE PERMIT HAD EXPIRED BUT THAT IT HAD BEEN EXTENDED FOR THREE MONTHS IN ORDER AVOID SITUATION IN WHICH SADDIQ WOULD REQUEST POLITICAL ASYLUM. DECISION ON LATTER FALLS WITHIN PROVINCE HOME OFFICE WHICH COULD BE EXPECTED TO GRANT REQUEST, THUS REMOVING EVEN TENUOUS HOLD OVER SADDIQ REPRESENTED BY CURRENT SHORT EXTENSION RESIDENCE PERMIT. DENG APPARENTLY WAS UNSATISFIED.

2. PHILLIPS ASSUMES (AS I DO) THAT ITINERANT PRESIDENTIAL COUNSELOR MANSOUR KHALID MADE SAME REQUEST TO PRIME MINISTER CALLAGHAN AT HIS MEETING LATE OCT 5 IN LONDON.
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PHILLIPS FEELS THERE IS LITTLE MORE HMG CAN DO TO MEET GOS

WISHES ON THIS MATTER AND SIMPLY HOPES SADDIQ ISSUE WILL GRADUALLY RECEDE IN IMPORTANCE IN GOS EYES. HE COMMENTED RUEFULLY THAT DENG HAD ASKED WHY BBC, WHICH HAD PUBLICIZED SADDIQ'S VIEWS IN AUGUST, HAD NOT SO FAR REPORTED PRO-NIMEIRI PUBLIC STATEMENT OF FAMILY'S RESIDENT SENIOR CITIZEN AHMED AL-MAHDI.

3. COMMENT. SUDANESE MAY TAKE MATTER NO FARTHER FOR PRESENT BUT, SHOULD SADDIQ MAKE FURTHER PUBLIC STATEMENT, DETERIORATION IN SUDANESE/UK RELATIONS CAN BE EXPECTED ENSUE, CONCEIVABLY INCLUDING REQUEST FOR RECALL OF PHILLIPS, AS HE HIMSELF RECOGNIZES.
BREWER

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